HB 3068 A -A3   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By:	Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates:	5/2, 5/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows school districts and public charter schools to award a high school equivalency diploma to a student in grades 11 or 12 who has passed an approved high school equivalency test and is at least 16 years old, if the student's parent or guardian consents. Allows students over the age of 18 or who have been emancipated to provide their own consent.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

HOUSE VOTE: Passed. Ayes, 56; Excused, 3; Excused for Business of the House, 1.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
- Age of students who can take an equivalency test
- North Dakota's equivalency diploma
- Number of students in Oregon who are graduates, completers, and who have taken an equivalency test

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A3 Replaces the measure. Requires Oregon Department of Education to study the possibility of creating a high school equivalency diploma. Requires report to legislature by December 31, 2024. Allows students aged 16 or 17 to take equivalency test with parent's permission.

BACKGROUND:

In 2008, the U.S. Department of Education began requiring states to use a single formula to calculate the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate (four-year ACGR). ACGR tracks the progress of a group of ninth-grade students through high school and to graduation with a regular high school diploma. For the 2021-2022 school year, Oregon's four-year ACGR was 81.34 percent. As part of the calculation requirement, states may not count students who earn an equivalency credential as having graduated with a regular diploma. They are instead counted as "completers," and a state's completer rate is reported separately from its graduation rate. Oregon's four-year completer rate for the 2021-2022 school year was 83.78 percent.

House Bill 3068 A gives an equivalency diploma to certain individuals who have passed an equivalency test.